



## **Request for City Council Committee Action from the City Coordinator's Office**

**Date:** February 10, 2014

**To:** Honorable Cam Gordon, Chair, Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee

**Referral to:** Honorable Elizabeth Glidden, Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Committee

**Subject:** Resolution calling for action on triclosan

**Recommendation:** Adopt attached resolution and amend the City of Minneapolis Legislative Agenda to include support for phasing out triclosan from consumer products in Minnesota

**Previous Directives:** Sustainability Indicator for "Healthy Lakes, Streams, and Rivers," Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy and Low Environmental Impact Cleaning Policy

### **Department Information**

Prepared by: Gayle Prest, Sustainability Director Approved by: Paul Aasen Presenters in Committee: Gayle Prest
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### **Supporting Information:**

Triclosan is an antibacterial additive used in a wide range of consumer products that has been shown to degrade into dioxins in surface waters, have harmful effects on the endocrine system, and may contribute to antibiotic resistance. Over-the-counter products containing triclosan at sub-therapeutic levels have not been proven to be more effective at reducing disease.

The City of Minneapolis Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy and Low Environmental Impact Cleaning Policy prohibit the use of products containing triclosan in municipal operations.

The Minnesota Legislature is considering a prohibition on triclosan in consumer products, and the United States Food and Drug Administration is considering a rule "to require manufacturers of antibacterial hand soaps and body washes to demonstrate that their products are safe for long-term daily use and more effective than plain soap and water in preventing illness and the spread of certain infections."

The attached resolution supports these actions on triclosan by the state and federal governments, and encourages Minneapolis residents, businesses and public agencies to avoid purchasing products containing triclosan.

Resolution of the City of Minneapolis

**Urging Action on Triclosan in Consumer Products**

By Gordon

Whereas, triclosan is an antibacterial chemical added to a wide range of consumer products, including toothpaste, soap, mouthwash, detergent, deodorant and even packaging; and,

Whereas, in surface waters, triclosan degrades into dioxins, bioaccumulative environmental toxins; and,

Whereas, over-the-counter products containing triclosan, triclocarban and other antibacterial additives at sub-therapeutic levels have not been proven to be more effective at reducing disease; and,

Whereas, studies indicate that antibacterial soaps and similar products may contribute to antibiotic resistance; and,

Whereas, multiple studies have shown harmful effects from triclosan on the endocrine system, including thyroid and sex hormones; and,

Whereas, the Minnesota Department of Health has set a maximum safe level of 50 parts per billion of triclosan in drinking water yet recognizes that the most common way of ingesting these is through use of consumer products; and,

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy and Low Environmental Impact Cleaning Policy prohibit the use of products containing triclosan in municipal operations; and,

Whereas, the United States Food and Drug Administration is considering a rule "to require manufacturers of antibacterial hand soaps and body washes to demonstrate that their products are safe for long-term daily use and more effective than plain soap and water in preventing illness and the spread of certain infections"; and,

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is responsible for our community's impacts on surface water quality,

**Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Minneapolis,** That the City of Minneapolis urges the State of Minnesota to take action to phase-out the use of triclosan in consumer products.

Be it further resolved that the City of Minneapolis urges the Federal Food and Drug Administration to require manufacturers to prove that antibacterial products are safe and more efficacious than plain soap and water.

Be it further resolved that the City of Minneapolis encourages Minneapolis residents, businesses and public agencies to avoid purchasing products containing triclosan, to protect human health and surface water quality.